IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend and replace paragraph [0026] at page 7 as follows:

[0026] Figure 1A, 1B and 1C ~~Figs. 1-3~~ shows the GLC-MS analysis of SLOS plasma. (A) ~~Fig 1.~~ shows the three peaks detected at 22.0, 22.5 and 23.8 min; (B) ~~Fig. 2~~ indicates that the first peak has the ions characteristics of 27-hydroxycholesterol; and (C) ~~Fig. 3~~ indicates the third peak has the ions characteristic of 27-hydroxy-7-dehydro- and 8-dehydrocholesterol.

Please amend and replace paragraph [0027] at page 7 as follows:

[0027] Figure 2A, 2B and 2C ~~Figs. 4-6~~ is the GLC-MS analysis of cholesta-5,7-diene-3 β ,27-diol (27-hydroxy-7-dehydrocholesterol). (A) ~~Fig. 4~~ depicts the retention time (23.8 min) of the standard, cholesta-5,7-diene-3 β ,27-diol prepared by a known method (20). The complete mass spectral pattern of the standard is shown in B ~~Fig. 5~~, and the mass spectral pattern of the peak obtained from a pooled plasma sample from patients with SLOS is shown in (C) ~~Fig. 6~~.

Please amend and replace paragraph [0028] at page 7 as follows:

[0028] Figure 3 ~~Fig. 7~~ shows the correlation of SLOS patient plasma sterol and 27-hydroxysterol levels.

Please amend and replace the Abstract paragraph at page 35, lines 6-12, as follows:

The invention provides m~~M~~ethods of reducing the cholesterol accumulation in a subject, including methods of reducing cholesterol synthesis and methods of increasing cholesterol degradation. In accordance with the methods of the invention, c~~C~~holesterol synthesis is inhibited by administering a compound capable of increasing 27-hydroxy-7-dehydrocholesterol and/or 27-

hydroxy-8-dehydrocholesterol levels, wherein an increase in 27-hydroxy-7-dehydrocholesterol and/or 27-hydroxy-8-dehydrocholesterol levels results in an inhibition of cholesterol synthesis. ~~Cholesterol degradation is increased by increasing the level of 7α-hydroxylase in extrahepatic tissue and cells.~~ The invention includes screening methods and assays for identifying agent compounds capable of inhibiting 27-hydroxy-7-dehydrocholesterol reductase activity and of increasing 27-hydroxylation and 27-hydroxy-7-dehydrocholesterol and/or 27-hydroxy-8-dehydrocholesterol levels.